

## **Frequently Asked Questions**


### **Q. How were the Area Map and Corridor Maps determined?**

RWIS sites are located along the state's major transportation corridors. The Area and Corridor maps reflect the potential point-to-point trips travelers may take. When searching for either RWIS, Cameras, or TDP, the same area and corridor maps are being used.

### **Q. Why are there separate links for RWIS, Camera and TDP?**

This allows you to switch between RWIS, Camera, and TDP by clicking on the appropriate Site Type at the top of Area/Corridor map. The camera site types includes DOT&PF as well as other non-ADOT&PF cameras, such as those operated by the Federal Aviation Administration and National Weather Service.

### **Q. What is the difference between the RWIS and Camera links on the area maps?**

Clicking on the RWIS icon  for a site will display both atmospheric information and camera images (if available).

Clicking on the Camera icons  or  will display only the camera images.

Each thumbnail image can be enlarged by clicking on either the image or the date/time stamp.

### **Q. What is the Camera Area Overview?**

After clicking an Area or Corridor Map, the Camera Area Overview (in the side bar menu) shows all ADOT&PF cameras on one web page for that selected area. Each camera image can be enlarged by clicking on either the image or the view name.

### **Q. What is happening when the RWIS webpage displays either "No camera images available" or "No data found in the past 48 hours for atmospheric readings or for surface readings"?**

This usually happens when there is either a power or communication failure for that RWIS site, or the sensor equipment has failed. You are welcome to send an email to [dot.rwis.managers@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.rwis.managers@alaska.gov) and report it. We may or may not already know about it.

### **Q. Are camera images archived similar to the RWIS atmospheric and pavement observations?**

Images are retained on our server for 24 hours. Images older than 3pm (Alaska Standard Time) or 4pm (Alaska Daylight Time) are removed due to the large number of images involved. Images for each camera view are updated typically at 10 or 20-minute intervals, depending on the communication method being used to deliver images..

Clicking on a camera image thumbnail provides an expanded view. The Loop feature, available on an expanded view, will play back the available images on the server for this camera view. Please give the Loop function time to load all the available images. This may be slow if using a low-bandwidth internet service.

## **Q. What are Alaska Weather Links?**

The Alaska Weather Links page provides links to many non-DOT&PF sites, including the following:

- ✚ National Weather Service products
- ✚ Non-ADOT&PF camera sites (these sites are also displayed as an orange camera icon on the appropriate Area/Corridor maps)
- ✚ National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite and radar images
- ✚ Environmental and Light data
- ✚ Tide tables and Climatology

## **Q. What is myRWIS?**

myRWIS is a customizable image viewer of the RWIS sites based on a user's site selections. It uses cached information so that a user can customize multiple sites and views. The user can go to myRWIS to look at those same cameras on any given day or time thereafter and the site selections will be saved. A user selects the Corridor/Area first, then the RWIS site, and then the camera view.

## **Q. Why aren't there more RWIS sites in the state? Who makes the decision on where they are installed?**

RWIS sites are strategically located and installed where there is the greatest need. And although there are many places in Alaska where an RWIS site would be useful, they are very expensive. The DOT&PF maintenance and operations (M&O) personnel are our biggest users and greatly influence where RWIS sites are installed. If you would like to request a new RWIS location, please contact your local district superintendent for that region. Click [here](#) to access information for the M&O personnel contacts by region or statewide.

## **Q. How do I ask questions or make suggestions about the web site?**

To initiate an email to the RWIS team, send it to [dot.rwis.managers@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.rwis.managers@alaska.gov), or click on Contact RWIS Manager in the sidebar menu or on the RWIS Help icon below the sidebar menu. You will usually receive a response from a team member within 24 hours on normal work days. Your questions and comments do make a difference, both in improving the website and showing interest in the RWIS program.

**Q. What is 511?**

The 511 Traveler Information System is a service offered by Alaska DOT&PF via phone, website and social media and provides travel-related information. Travelers will see if there are any highway alerts in effect (i.e., accidents, or other emergencies on the road), driving condition information, construction work or other planned events that may affect travel, and any active National Weather Service alerts. The 511 website also displays the roadweather.alaska.gov camera images and atmospheric information. Go to: [www.511.alaska.gov](http://www.511.alaska.gov) for more information or dial 5-1-1 from any phone within the State of Alaska.